

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S ORES.

(Continued from page 1.)

"Nos. 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are on the main line of the Norfolk and Western railroad; Nos. 3, 4, 5, 25, 26 and 27 on the Reed Island Branch, North Carolina extension; Nos. 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 28 on the North Carolina extension; Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19 on the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. At first blush these totals of 59,500 tons indicate a decided shortage, but there are some modifying features.

"The Crozer furnaces have in stock 40,000 tons; Pulaski, 35,000; Roanoke, about 9,000; Graham, 20,000; Salem, 15,000; Max Meadows, 12,000; a total, say, of 131,000 tons and three of these furnaces not in blast; hence for a short time stocks will increase.

"Bristol is as yet drawing no supplies from the Virginia brown ore field, save Gossan. She is running on brown ores from Embreeville, Tenn., magnetic from Cranberry, N. C., and Gossan from Carroll county.

"Both Pulaski and Crozer use a certain percentage of Cranberry, and Buena Vista is getting the Oriskany brown ores from Craig creek and Rich Patch, Alleghany county.

"Graham requires special attention. This furnace is at Graham, eight miles from Pocahontas and sixty-seven miles from Radford. The present stock of 20,000 tons is composed of Rorer, Clark Summit and Gossan, but she expects in the near future to draw her brown ores from the locality and the red fossil ores from near Big Stone Gap via the Clinch Valley extension.

"The furnace company controls the mineral rights on a large acreage near Tip-Top station, ten miles from Graham. Extensive developments show apparently large quantities of excellent brown ores lying in and on the limestones, forming the valley at the base of East River mountain, through which the Bluestone river flows. These ores have not hitherto been available for want of a branch line connection about three miles from the railroad, but this branch will undoubtedly be built early in the coming year, opening up a new ore field and giving Graham large local supplies.

"It must be steadily borne in mind that the above figures of outputs are good weather figures and that with bad weather the monthly output will be diminished, hence safety requires that these figures must be discontinued from the first of December until the first of April.

"This apparently makes the furnace situation more critical and unquestionably indicates a shortage if all of the furnaces were to run, but in the writer's estimation the question of a winter's supply is practically assured for all of the furnaces that can or will run, and with the incoming year large new sources of supply are clearly in sight. It has only been within the last year that any inducements have been offered to either land owners or outsiders to open mines and become shippers of ores. A very radical change has taken place all along the line. Not only is better mining being done at the old mines by a fuller opening up and the putting in of better machinery, but extensive preparations are actively being made for reaching new territory and opening new mines.

"The Crozer Iron Company, in addition to largely increasing the efficiency of the Rich Hill mine by working it with a heavy steam shovel, have opened what seems to be a good deposit of excellent ore on another part of this same estate, to which they have been extending their narrow gauge railroad, now about finished. They have also connected their Murray mine with the Norfolk and Western railroad near Cloverdale, and built a complete new washing plant. They have also become the owners of Dr. Sander's limestone ore tract, four miles from Foster Falls, which promises to be the largest producing property for this class of ore in the whole district.

"The Bertha Zinc people are putting a flume and other appliances which will, by the first of the year, double their output.

"The Wythe Lead and Zinc Company, at Austinsville, who have a splendid piece of ore territory, are putting in a new washing plant, and will therefore shortly become large shippers of ore.

"At Foster Falls new opening are being made on the limestone ores, and the owners have decided to open their Deep well lead of intermediate (neither their limestone nor mountain, strictly speaking,) ores. The numerous test pits and shafts over a mile of territory promise a very excellent ore to be had cheaply and quickly.

"Arrangements are nearly completed for making the limestone ore property of the Carter heirs, near Carter's Ferry, an early producer.

"At the Crockett bank, as soon as the ground is properly opened up to justify it, another complete washing plant will be erected with a monthly capacity of 2,000 tons.

"Messrs. Graham & Robinson advise me that they will shortly increase their output, not only of their Foster Fall but Carter's Ferry and Reed Island mines.

"A very large and valuable ore territory, now totally unproductive, looks as if it would soon be available. This will be reached by what is known as the Cripple Creek extension of the Norfolk and Western railroad, from Ivanhoe to Sprick well furnace. Much of the heavy work has been done on this line and indications now point to its early completion. Its whole length, some fourteen miles, runs through an intermittent, but practically continuous ore territory. In this district the Dora Furnace Company, of Pulaski, owns a very large acreage and expect to obtain their entire supplies from their own estate. There are a number of undoubtedly excellent properties in the original owners' hands. The Norma estate, the property of the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company, promises to be a large ore producer, both of limestone and mountain ores.

"While a railroad to Speedwell would upon its completion open up an ore territory immediately available, the ore ground does not stop here, but continues with intermissions to and into Tennessee. Nor is this the only ore section to be easily reached if needed. At Carter's Ferry the ore-bearing ground divides, one hand following up New river and carrying the mines above enumerated, while the other, some three miles to the westward, runs unbroken for twelve miles, the two bands coming together at Eagle Furnace, on the Cripple Creek extension. This latter band runs through the properties of Major Graham, Dr. Sanders, Widow Sanders, Messrs. Blair, Moore and others.

"It must not be understood that a pro-

ductive mine can be opened on every man's farm. On the contrary, there constantly intrudes barren pieces of ground. The only point the writer desires to make is that there is a large district practically untouched, that with the advent of railroads and good mining will beyond any peradventure give abundant supplies of ore for many years to come, not only for existing furnaces but for others to be erected at proper localities when mines actually opened up and producing, justify them.

"Back of Christiansburg, thirty-three miles from Roanoke, parties interested in the Roanoke Iron Company have secured a tract of land that from the developments made, seems to promise large amounts of high grade red hematite ore.

"The Consolidated Mining Company during the last six months has made new openings on its Gale-Rorer property, which have rapidly become large producers and at the same time is steadily increasing the output from the Rorer mines proper. Further to the east, the Mine Bank, near Vesuvius station, will have a branch road built to it this year, when Messrs. Moore & Hibbard calculate on daily shipments of from 100 to 200 tons of mountain ore. The same parties have lately secured a tract to their Stuart-Draft openings, are putting in new machinery and think they can average forty tons a day of high grade limestone ore.

"At Cornwell just east of Buena Vista, an unusually good mountain ore has been opened, which is to be transported to the Norfolk and Western railroad by an overhead tram.

"The Shenandoah Iron Company, owners of large tracts at the base of and on Massanutten mountain, report the finding there of apparently large deposits of excellent Oriskany ores.

"At Stanley, eleven miles east of Shenandoah, it is proposed to establish a large mining operation.

"Enough has been said to show that there is an intense activity all through the region, and all indications point to such an early output of ores of varying kinds as to insure beyond any question a regular and ample supply to every furnace in the field.

In what has been said no reference has been made to the great Oriskany ore fields of Craigs and Potts creeks; but in the writer's estimation it is as certain as the sun shines that at no distant day a rail connection will be made to them, thus giving a new source of supply to this section.

"The quality of the iron which has been and can be made by the proper admixtures of the above named ores requires no elaboration. Every grade of iron is possible, rank and mild red-short, neutral, mild or rank cold-short. For basic steel our brown ores are ideal.

"In the past there has been entirely too much dependence upon the imagination in talking of the untold mineral treasures of Virginia, and as a result large individual disappointments have resulted and in certain lines there has been premature activity. While every hillside will not prove to be a mine, there are beyond question in the aggregate very large quantities of ores to be cheaply and continuously had by diligent search, proper equipment and careful business oversight, and it is equally beyond question that Southwest Virginia will certainly become the seat of a great iron and steel industry that will grow year by year and decade by decade, and which will bring wealth and population and prosperity.

"We can say of Virginia's great valley as has been said of her favorite son, it's all right. EDWARD C. PUGH.

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"Won't you tell me about the first carbon lamp you ever made?" asked a New York Morning Journal man of Mr. Edison.

"Ah, that is a story. The carbon of the first lamp was made of a spool of Clark's thread. All night Batchelor, my assistant—the greatest and best of my assistants, the man of infinite patience and indefatigable persistence—worked beside me. The next day we worked all day and then all night again, and at the end of that time we had produced one carbon out of a spool of Clark's thread.

"Having made it, it was necessary to take it to the glass-blower's house. With the utmost precaution Batchelor took up the precious carbon, and I marched after him, as if guarding a mighty treasure to the glass-blower's cubby-hole. To our consternation, just as we reached the glass-blower's bench the wretched carbon broke.

"Batchelor turned around and looked at me, and said: 'Edison, we won't sleep till we get one.'

At the recollection Edison lay back in his chair and laughed heartily. When he had recovered from the fit, he said:

"That was one of Batchelor's perpetual phrases, which he had said to me a hundred times before, and which I had said to him. We turned back to the main laboratory and set to work again.

"It was late in the afternoon before we had produced another perfect carbon. The same procession as in the morning passed to the glass-blower's den. It was safely deposited on a bench where Batchelor laid it down, when a jeweler's screw driver—a very little utensil as you know—rolled down and broke the carbon again.

"Batchelor looked at the broken carbon with staring, wide-open eyes, and I did too. Fully a minute elapsed before either spoke. Batchelor turned around—he is a very mild-mannered man, but if Uncle Toby could be forgiven for swearing, and the recording angel blotted out the old soldier's oath with a tear, surely he did the same for Batch.

"Well, I'm cursed!" said Batch; and then he added, with a grim look on his face: 'Job got too cursed much reputation for patience on a small capital.'

"So disappointed, but not disheartened, we turned back again, and before night a carbon was completed and inserted in the lamp. The lamp was exhausted of air and sealed, the current turned on and the light that is to be the light of the world met our eyes for the first time in all its beauty."

"Can you tell me how many children of that first lamp there are in the world to-day?"

"I cannot," he answered. "Do you know, Tate?" he said, turning around to the secretary. The secretary shook his head.

"I suppose it is past finding out," continued Edison, "but the output of the United States is 50,000 a day. Of these the Edison company manufacture one-half—say 25,000 a day. And," he added, with a certain grimness, "will manufacture the entire 50,000, or as many more as the country needs. The output of lamps for the whole world is 80,000 a day, or 24,000,000 a year. This gives you an idea of the growth and spread of the electric light. Twice as many lamps are made in a day as sufficed for a whole year ten years ago. If you calculate the lamps at 40 cents each you will see that the world is paying little short of \$10,000,000 a year for the children of the lamp that made Batchelor consider Job something of an impostor."

THE KAISER'S CLOTHES.

An Eighth of His Time Spent in Dressing.

There can be no doubt that the bearing and personality of the emperor, which are now familiar to thousands of English people, have helped in the good impression which he has made. People who, from what they had heard and read, were prepared for a rather cock-a-hoop young gentleman, have been struck with the dignity and earnestness of our energetic guest. With a large section of the public, however, the interest in his imperial majesty's person seems to be of a less critical and more childish order. He is to them, says the Pall Mall Gazette, a sort of big doll, whom it is the best fun in the world to go on dressing up and undressing and redressing again all day. It would be interesting to know how much time the kaiser has to spend in the various changes from uniform to uniform which are reflected so faithfully in the reports. In toilet, doubtless, as in other things, he is by nature rapid and impetuous. Still, these elaborate costumes are not quite like the every-day clothes into which we common mortals are wont to throw ourselves when in a hurry; and it is safe to put an hour or two of the eight hours' working day as the very minimum tax which the emperor's clothes make on the emperor's time.

A Buried Pond.

A remarkable freak of nature is found among the hills of Delaware county, N. Y., in a sunken lake covering about three acres of surface, which lies between two parallel ridges not far from the New York, Ontario & Western railroad. The whole surface of the lake is covered with a thick growth of moss whose stems extend to an unknown depth, but certainly further than the arm can reach. Each tuft of the moss is of a different color from its neighbor, so that the surface looks like that of a beautiful colored carpet. In walking over the velvety surface the foot sinks down a few inches without encountering the water, which is at least two feet below the surface. Near the shore, in a few places, the water comes to the top. The buried pond is a wonderful curiosity.

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Muck Bar and Rolling Mill	-	-
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